

RON NEWTON, MANCHESTER
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the incredible public service of one of my constituents, Ron Newton of Manchester, Maine.

Mr. Newton has been a member of the Manchester Volunteer Fire Department now for 50 years. In that time, he has served as deputy to three different chiefs, and has put thousands of hours into training, fire calls, and meetings.

In Maine, our small towns often depend on volunteers to staff our fire departments. With their radios always close by, they routinely drop what they're doing to report to an emergency, whether they have to leave work or their families to do so. Just like full-time firefighters, they risk their lives for others, are passionate about their work, and are heroes.

Mr. Newton's five decades as a firefighter is an incredible statement of commitment to his community and its residents—he has something to teach us all about public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 308, I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2012 VIENNA-TYSONS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS AND SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the 2012 Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce (VTRCC) Business and Service Awards. Each year, the VTRCC recognizes companies, nonprofits, and individuals in the Vienna-Tysons area who demonstrate exceptional commitment to business and the community.

Since the 1940's, the VTRCC has provided a strategic link between local businesses and the region through participation in community activities, networking opportunities, marketing, support and education. This region has witnessed extraordinary growth, and the VTRCC has been a consistent, guiding voice for business. Fairfax County is considered by many to be one of the best communities in the country in which to live, work and raise a family. A significant factor in that distinction is the thriving partnership between the public and private sectors. Corporations, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions work hand-in-hand with their counterparts in local, State and Federal government agencies. A thriving business community is essential to maintaining a high

quality of life for all residents, just as ensuring strong community institutions and educational opportunities are available for all residents is essential to fostering continued economic growth.

I join the Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce in congratulating the following recipients of the 2012 Business and Service Awards:

Business of the Year (Large Company): Transurban.

Business of the Year (Small Company): Washington Landscapes.

Business Executive of the Year (Large Company): Kevin Reynolds—Cardinal Bank.

Business Executive of the Year (Small Company): Diana Carlin—Damon Galleries, Ltd.

Entrepreneur of the Year: Mark Rogoff—Title One Settlement Group, LLC.

Citizen of the Year: Delegate Mark Keam.

Nonprofit of the Year: Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna.

Educator of the Year: David Reynolds—Vienna Elementary School.

Lifetime Service Award: Richard Irons—First Citizens Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2012 Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Business and Service Awards and in thanking them for their many contributions not only to our businesses but also our community.

IN HONOR OF DR. LINDA HENKE

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Linda Henke, for her years of service to the people of the St. Louis area.

Dr. Henke is retiring as Superintendent of the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District, MRH, where she demonstrated a true passion for excellence during her years of service. When she first joined MRH, the district was one point away from losing its accreditation from the state of Missouri. After a decade under Dr. Henke's guidance, the school district now operates with Missouri's top Annual Performance Report Score; a true testament to Dr. Henke's hard work, dedication, and leadership.

Her personal approach towards the staff and the students has been a hallmark of her tenure. She made a point to know the staff and the students by name, and she attended nearly all sporting events, school plays, and concerts her students took part in. She actively sought to include her students in the development of successful school policies by regularly meeting with an advisory team of middle and high school students to openly discuss problems and possible solutions.

Dr. Henke not only cares about her students' academic success, but also about their health and well-being. I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Henke as she has endeavored to provide locally produced, healthy food choices to her students in the cafeteria. She has worked hard to engage students in learning about our food system and teaching them that good eating habits are connected to excellence in education.

Her life has been defined by remarkable service to others. Dr. Henke has an exceptional ability to identify needs and works to fulfill them, as she has demonstrated many times

while leading the MRH school district. A great example of this was when she saw that some students and families had lost their homes and had trouble finding regular meals. She addressed this by developing Joe's Place, where teenage boys can go to find affection, support, a home, and regular meals. In previous years, each of the boys who lived at Joe's Place not only graduated from MRH High School, but also went on to attend college. In many cases, they were the first members of their families to accomplish this feat.

Without Dr. Henke's passion for her students and determination to provide them with every opportunity for success, MRH would not be the model school district it is today. Educators from across the country visit MRH schools to understand how she has transformed the district, and how they can replicate her successful programs in their own districts.

I congratulate Dr. Linda Henke on her retirement, and I thank her for her service to our community.

IN HONOR OF MR. STUART J. GREENBERG

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Stuart J. Greenberg on the occasion of his retirement as executive director of Environmental Health Watch (EHW).

As an EHW founding board member, staff member for 28 years, and chief executive for 19 years, Stu became a pioneer in the field of healthy housing leaving a rich legacy and a number of accomplishments which have led to healthier children and families both in and around the Cleveland area and across the country. Stu was instrumental in establishing the first national conference on healthy homes and, with a small group of peer experts, literally coined the term "healthy home."

Stu's work with EHW was not limited to the inside of the home. As part of his work with EHW, Stu helped to develop Local Emergency Planning Committees, or LEPCs, which facilitate collaboration and information sharing among partners in emergency response. Stu helped to get provisions for LEPCs in the 1986 "Right-to-Know" amendments to the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, better known as "Superfund." Stu's participation and leadership in Cuyahoga County's LEPC over the last 25 years has contributed to the safety of local communities in Northeast Ohio.

EHW, formerly the Council on Hazardous Materials, was not the first organization which Stu took from concept to reality. Stu was a co-founder and first executive director of Spectrum of Supportive Services, formerly Panta Rhei, Inc., a rehabilitation agency now affiliated with Recovery Resources, Inc., for people re-entering the community following long-term mental health-related hospitalizations.

Stu began his college education at Western Reserve University, where he graduated cum laude in 1966 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology. Then, in 1970, Stu

graduated from the Case Institute of Technology, earning a Master of Science degree in Organizational Behavior.

Stu has served on many councils, committees, and boards and has received numerous awards and distinctions for his expertise, activism, and dedication to social justice, such as the 2005 Howard Metzenbaum Citizen Action Award by Ohio Citizen Action.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Stu Greenberg on his path-forging and inspiring career and service to the Greater Cleveland community.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, When Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low gathered 18 girls together in Savannah, GA, on March 12, 1912, she aimed to offer a hand to the youngsters by helping them to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. Since that first meeting of what would become known as the Girl Scouts, millions of girls and young women have grown in courage, confidence, and character and made countless contributions to the world.

The Girl Scout leadership program exists to help girls learn more about themselves, their values, and people. Those who have made extraordinary contributions as Girl Scouts receive the Gold Award for making a difference in their communities.

Through leadership in the scouting tradition, Girls Scouts are changing our country and the world. The organization continues to operate on a strong foundation of volunteers who dedicate themselves to offering their time and talents in the interest of guiding tomorrow's leaders. Thanks to them, over 10,000 girls from kindergarten through grade 12 across 36 counties in western Virginia are enjoying the Girl Scouts program. They are among over 3 million girls and volunteers who are active members along with 50 million women in the United States who are Girl Scouts alumnae.

As the Girl Scouts celebrate their centennial with a special event in Roanoke, VA, on June 30, I applaud the organization for its long history of leadership as the voice for its many devoted members, past and present. Let us all commend the special women whose experience in Girl Scouts is influencing our communities. We look forward to today's Girl Scouts becoming our next generation of leaders.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on June 18, 2012. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

S. 684, To provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah—rollcall No. 379: "yea."

S. 404, To modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior—rollcall No. 380: "yea."

HONORING REV. JANE ADAMS
SPAHR

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership of the Rev. Jane Adams Spahr, whose work on behalf of justice for the LGBT community is an inspiration in Northern California and across the country.

Rev. Spahr began her ministry as a proud progressive and feminist, and as one of few willing to work publicly for the cause of equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. In 1980, Rev. Spahr served as Minister of Pastoral Care for the Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco's Castro District. And in 1982, Rev. Spahr founded what would become the Spectrum LGBT Center, Mann County's premiere LGBT service provider and advocacy organization.

In 1991, Rev. Spahr was called to serve as co-pastor of the Downtown United Presbyterian Church of Rochester, New York, making her the first openly gay person called to such a position of leadership within the Presbyterian tradition. Unfortunately, Rev. Spahr's pastorship was challenged and ultimately revoked by Church leadership. The Reverend was instead invited to serve the Presbyterian congregation in Tiburon, California, with a focus on working within the denomination to end discrimination and foster inclusiveness and social justice.

More recently, after the Supreme Court of California struck down the State's ban on same-sex marriage, Rev. Spahr became known for officiating at the marriages of several gay and lesbian couples. The Reverend was again challenged for refusing to comply with the anti-gay marriage policies of Church leadership and earlier this year Rev. Spahr received a formal censure for her actions. However, as in the past, the congregation has rallied behind her, and the local presbytery voted overwhelmingly to refuse the censure. Although Rev. Spahr's battle continues, I am proud to support her mission to see the dignity and humanity of every individual respected.

In 2007, I honored Rev. Spahr in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD upon her retirement from Spectrum, emphasizing that her courageous passion for justice and inclusion for LGBT people has left a legacy that is paving the way to a better future. Clearly, she has advanced the cause of same-sex marriage and other rights during this time and will continue to be an inspiration and role model to all of us who care about human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you to join me in thanking the Rev. Jane Adams Spahr for her many contributions to a stronger and more inclusive community, and to the ongoing fight for full LGBT equality. We wish her every success, and we look forward to the day—closer now than ever—when the last vestiges of anti-gay discrimination are erased from our laws and from our society.

CONGRATULATING MARTHA
BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed honor to congratulate Martha Brown Middle School for being designated as a New York State and National "School to Watch." It is a pleasure to acknowledge Martha Brown's Principal David Dunn, the Fairport School Board, the administration, teachers, faculty and students upon receiving this award as one of only seven newly designated schools in New York State to be honored with this distinction.

The recognition as a national School to Watch means that Martha Brown excels in each of the seven Essential Elements of Standards—Focused Middle Level Schools and Programs. Those seven Essential Elements are: a philosophy and mission that reflect the intellectual and developmental needs and characteristics of young adolescents; an educational program that is comprehensive, challenging, purposeful, integrated, relevant, and standards-based; an organization and structure that support both academic excellence and personal development; classroom instruction appropriate to the needs and characteristics of young adolescents provided by skilled and knowledgeable teachers; strong educational leadership and administration that encourage, facilitate, and sustain involvement, participation, and leadership; a network of academic and personal support available for all students; and professional learning and staff development for all staff that are ongoing, planned, purposeful, and collaboratively developed.

It is especially meaningful for me to know that a school within New York State's 28th Congressional District and my hometown of Fairport has achieved this prestigious honor. It is a true testament to the hard work of the teachers, administrators, and students. The fact that Martha Brown Middle School has been selected from among many qualified middle schools speaks volumes about the school's character and dedication to academic excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Martha Brown Middle School of Fairport Central School District on this well-earned honor. As a "School to Watch," Martha Brown serves as a shining example for other middle schools throughout our entire nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 309, I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."